GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3171
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Transportation Cost of Coal
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated/ proposes to formulate any plan to promote and develop inland waterways in the country and if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
(b) the extent to which the transportation cost is likely to be reduced as a result of implementation of the said mode?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) Five waterways have been declared as National Waterways under the relevant Act. Further, to increase the network of inland waterways IWT the National Waterways Bill, 2015 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha, under which 106 new waterways across 24 States are proposed to be declared as National Waterways. The 'Jal Marg Vikas' Project, a World Bank-aided Project for capacity augmentation of the river Ganga, National Waterway-1 will further develop the river for navigational purpose.
(b) Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode is recognized as an economical, fuel efficient and environment friendly mode of transport especially for the movement of bulk cargo, hazardous goods and over dimensional cargo. According to the Integrated National Waterways Transportation Grid Study conducted in 2014 by RITES, cost saving and fuel efficiency is a key benefit of IWT mode compared to rail and road transportation as explained below:
(i) One Litre of fuel moves, 24 tonne-km on road, 95 tonne-km on rail and 215 tonne-km on IWT.
(ii) Capital cost of developing waterways is much lower than rail and road.
(iii) Inter modal comparative operating cost (Rs. / ton km) for movement of freight through Rail is Rs.1.41, Road is Rs.2.58 and for inland waterways it is Rs.1.06.

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